REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action issued on December 6, 2005. By this Response, claim 1 is amended and claim 33 is newly presented. No new matter is introduced. Claims 8-28 were withdrawn in response to a previous restriction requirement. Claims 1-7 and 29-33 are now active for examination.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated over Palmisano et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0017753) in view of Bramwell (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,193). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Palmisano and Bramwell and further in view of Bertness (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,505). Claim 6 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Palmisano and Bramwell and further in view of Hager et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,384,614).

The rejections are respectfully overcome in view of the amendment and/or remarks presented herein.

The Obviousness Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 29-32 Is Traversed

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 29-32 were rejected as being unpatentable over Palmisano and Bramwell. The obviousness rejection is respectfully traversed because the cited documents cannot support a prima facie case of obviousness.

By this Response, claim 1 is amended and describes a testing device for a vehicle system circuit comprising a system tester, load leads and sense leads. The load leads are connectable at respective first ends to separated points of the vehicle system circuit and connectable at respective second ends to a first set of inputs to the tester. The sense leads are connectable at respective first ends to the separated points of the vehicle system circuit and connectable at

respective second ends to a second set of inputs to the tester. A controller is provided for measuring the impedance, conductance or admittance between the circuit points. One of the separated points of the vehicle system circuit is a point other than a battery terminal. Appropriate support for the amendment can be found in, for instance, page 6, lines 20-24, page 6, line 29 through page 7, line 1, and Figures 3A-3D of the disclosure.

On the other hand, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 7-1 of Palmisano, the connectors 708A, 708B, 710A, 710B all are connected to battery terminals 704 and 706. Therefore, Palmisano fails to disclose that "one of the separated points of the vehicle system circuit is a point other than a battery terminal," as described in claim 1.

The other cited document, Bramwell, was relied on for its purported discussion of a vehicle tester and does not alleviate the deficiencies of Palmisano. Therefore, Palmisano and Bramwell, even if combined, do not disclose every feature of claim 1, and thus cannot support a prima facie case of obviousness. The obviousness rejection is untenable and should be withdrawn. Favorable reconsideration of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, 7 and 30-32, directly or indirectly, depend on claim 1 and incorporate every limitation thereof. Accordingly, claims 2, 5, 7 and 30-32 are patentable over Palmisano and Bramwell for at least the same reasons as for claim 1, as well as based on their own merits. Favorable reconsideration of claims 2, 5, 7 and 30-32 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 29 recites:

> In a testing device including a system tester, load leads connectable at respective first ends to separated points of the vehicle system circuit and connectable at respective second ends to a first set of inputs to the tester, sense leads connectable at respective first ends to the separated points of the vehicle system circuit and connectable at respective second ends to a second set of inputs to the tester, the leads being coupled to the points by Kelvin connections, the improvement comprising:
>
> a pair of conductors attached at a first end to a Kelvin clamp, the pair of conductors attached at a second end to respective terminals of a terminal block, the

terminals being insulated from each other, wherein the terminal block is configured for mating to a Kelvin clamp of the testing device.

Thus, an exemplary testing device according to claim 29 includes (1) a set of load leads, (2) a set of sense leads and (3) **an additional pair** of conductors attached at a first end to a Kelvin clamp, and attached at a second end to respective terminals of a terminal block. The terminals are insulated from each other, and the terminal block is configured for mating to a Kelvin clamp of the testing device. With this additional pair of uniquely structured conductors as described in claim 29, the tester can extend the length of connections to reach a remote or normally inaccessible test point. If the load leads and source leads of the system tester cannot easily make connection with a remote test point, the leads can clamped to the terminal block. The Kelvin clamp, due to the extended length provided by the conductors, provides the required access to the new test point. Descriptions related to the additional conductors can be found in, for example, page 8, last paragraph, page 9, first paragraph, and Fig. 5 of the written description.

In rejecting claim 29, the Office Action simply replicates the claim language and alleges that Palmisano discloses the claimed features in paragraphs 18 and 28 of Palmisano. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Paragraphs 18 and 28 of Palmisano respectively contain descriptions related to Fig. 3 and Fig. 7-1. According Palmisano, "FIG. 3 shows a combined clamp and current sensor that provides a Kelvin connection to a battery in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention," which is illustrated in Fig. 7-1 of Palmisano. See paragraph 8 of Palmisano. In other words, Fig. 3 shows an example of connectors 708A, 708B, 710A and 710B. Nowhere does Palmisano specifically describe that **in addition** to connectors 708A, 708B, 710A and 710B, the tester of Palmisano includes an **extra** set of conductors for extension purpose. Therefore, Palmisano and Bramwell, even if combined, do not disclose every limitation of claim 29. The

obviousness rejection of claim 29 is untenable and should be withdrawn. Favorable reconsideration of claim 29 is respectfully requested.

The Obviousness Rejections of Claims 3, 4 and 6 Are Overcome

Claims 3, 4 and 6 were rejected as being unpatentable over Palmisano and Bramwell, in combination with Bertness or Hager. The obviousness rejections are respectfully traversed because the combinations of Palmisano and Bramwell with either Bertness or Hager cannot support a prima facie case of obviousness.

Claims 3, 4 and 6 are dependent claims of claim 1. As discussed earlier, Palmisano and Bramwell, either combined or alone, fail to teach every limitation of claim 1. Bertness and Hager were cited for their purported discussions of providing ac and amplifiers or probe apparatus or springs, but do not alleviate the deficiencies of Palmisano and Bramwell. Therefore, Palmisano and Bramwell, even if combined with either Bertness or Hager, do not disclose every limitation of claims 3, 4 and 6. Accordingly, the alleged combinations of Bramwell and Palmisano with either Bertness or Hager cannot support a prima facie case of obviousness. The obviousness rejections are untenable and should be withdrawn. Favorable reconsideration of claims 3, 4 and 6 is respectfully requested.

New Claim 33 Is Patentable

New claim 33 describes a testing device including a system tester, load leads and sense leads. The load leads are connectable at respective first ends to separated points of the vehicle system circuit and connectable at respective second ends to a first set of inputs to the tester, and the sense leads are connectable at respective first ends to the separated points of the vehicle

system circuit and connectable at respective second ends to a second set of inputs to the tester. A controller of the tester is configured to measure the impedance, conductance or admittance between the circuit points, and set the measured impedance, conductance or admittance between the circuit points as a reference value. The controller prompts a user to move one of the load leads and one of the sense leads from one of the circuit points to a new circuit point, and measure the impedance, conductance or admittance between the circuit points including the new circuit point. Based on the reference value and the measured impedance, conductance or admittance between the circuit points including the new circuit point, the controller generates a test result. Appropriate support for the amendment can be found in, for instance, page 6, lines 20-24, page 6, line 29 through page 7, line 1, and Figures 3A-3D of the disclosure.

It is believed that the documents of record, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose the features described in claim 33. Favorable consideration of claim 33 is respectfully requested.

Conclusions

For the reasons given above, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner give the application favorable reconsideration and permit it to issue as a patent. If the Examiner believes that the application can be put in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representatives listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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